

## CURRICULUM OUTLINE

### Vision Statement

KTI Religious School is an inclusive community that transmits our Jewish heritage as a source of ethical and spiritual development to the next generation. Through formal and experiential techniques, we foster the growth of rich Jewish identities, character development, and a lifelong love of Jewish learning, doing mitzvot, and participating in Jewish community. We create a positive social atmosphere in which students develop relationships with one another and have a strong sense of local community. We work to meet the learning needs of every student as they begin their lifelong Jewish journeys.

**Outcomes:** By the time students complete the KTI Religious School, they will:

- Be fluent in the Shabbat morning service and demonstrate this fluency at their bar/bat mitzvah
- Possess a highly developed set of values and character, derived from Torah and Jewish wisdom
- Participate fully in the life of the Jewish community and live according to the Jewish calendar and life-cycle.
- Identify proudly as a Jew and see themselves as part of the story of the Jewish people from ancient times to the present

### Curricular Strands:

- Prayer: How can I express my own spirituality through the siddur?
- Values: How can Judaism teach me to be a good person?
- Living: How does Judaism help me sanctify time and relationships?
- Story: How do I fit in to the story of the Jewish people?

### KTI Kindergarten and Aleph/1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Our K-1 programs aim to provide a warm, welcoming, and positive Jewish experience through a fun, engaging introduction to Jewish learning. The students begin to learn the basic customs, ceremonies, blessings, and symbols of the holidays. They also learn many of the big Torah (Bible) stories, from the story of creation through the Ten Commandments. They are also introduced to Hebrew in a fun, informal way, through games and songs.

### Bet/ 2nd Grade

Strand	Content	Texts/Resources
Prayer	Introduction to decoding Ma Nishtana, Chanukkah Candle Blessings, Shabbat Table Blessings	<i>Shalom Aleph Bet</i>
Values	Mitzvot in Our Lives (concept)	<i>Let's Discover Mitzvot</i>
Living	Holiday spiral	<i>Let's Discover the Holidays</i>
Story	Classic Bible Stories	<i>Let's Discover the Bible</i>

**Gimmel/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

<b>Strand</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Texts/Resources</b>
<b>Prayer</b>	Learning to decode Modeh Ani, Ma Tovu, Birchot Hashachar, Baruch She'amar, Shochen Ad, Bar'chu/Yotzeir Or, Oseh Shalom, Ein Keloheinu	<i>Shalom Uvracha</i> <i>Siddur Sim Shalom</i>
<b>Values</b>	Self and Others	<i>A Kid's Mensch Handbook</i>
<b>Living</b>	Holiday spiral God	<i>BJL God; Partners with God; I Have Some Questions About God</i>
<b>Story</b>	Foundational narratives of Genesis and Exodus	<i>Child's Bible Book 1</i>

**Dalet/4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

<b>Strand</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Texts/Resources</b>
<b>Prayer</b>	Ashrei, Hatzi Kaddish, Yishtabach, El Adon, Sh'ma/V'ahavta, Mi Chamocha, Opening of Amidah, Shacharit Kedushah, Aleinu, Adon Olam	<i>Getting up to Speed Book One;</i> <i>Siddur Sim Shalom; Pirkei Tefila</i>
<b>Values</b>	The Self and the Family	<i>Living Jewish Values—Be Your Best Self; Building Family Connections</i>
<b>Living</b>	Interpersonal Mitzvot Holiday spiral	<i>Mitzvot (BJL)</i>
<b>Story</b>	Bible—Historical, Prophetic and Wisdom Books	<i>Child's Bible 2, The Prophets:</i> <i>Speaking Out for Justice</i>

**Hei/5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

<b>Strand</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Texts/Resources</b>
<b>Prayer</b>	Torah Service, Torah Blessings & Trope, Kaddish Shalem, Musaf Kedusha	<i>Siddur Sim Shalom; Pirkei Tefila</i>
<b>Values</b>	Responsibilities to Friends and the World	<i>Living Jewish Values—Be a Good Friend; Our Shared World</i>
<b>Living</b>	Lifecycle Holiday spiral	<i>Circle of Jewish Life</i>
<b>Story</b>	Zionism and Israel	<i>Artzeinu</i>

### Vav/6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Strand	Content	Texts/Resources
Prayer	Haftarah Blessings & Trope, Review of Shabbat Morning Service	<i>Siddur Sim Shalom</i>
Values	Jewish Community	<i>Experiencing Sacred Community</i>
Living	Bein Adam L'Makom (kashrut, tefillin, tallit, mezuzah, etc.) Holiday spiral	<i>Nosh &amp; Drosh with Rabbi Goldberg</i>
Story	Judaism as an unfolding debate across the generations, Jewish History from Ancient Israel to 1880's America	<i>Judaism's Great Debates; You Be the Judge; History of the Jewish People Vol. 1</i>

### Zayin/7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Strand	Content	Texts/Resources
Prayer	B'nai Mitzvah Preparation/Study	<i>Provided by Cantor</i>
Values	Hot Topics: Jewish positions on controversial issues	<i>Hot Topics</i>
Living	Mitzvot—taking responsibility for your own Jewish life Holiday spiral	<i>Making a Difference (Artson &amp; Gevirtz)</i>
Story	Holocaust, Jewish History from the birth of Zionism through today	<i>The Holocaust, the World, and the Jews; History of the Jewish People Vol. 2</i>

**Holiday Spiral:** For each holiday we have a “spiral curriculum” that indicates which aspects of each holidays are covered each year as that holiday comes up. New aspects of each holiday are added each year.

**Bechira:** Mixed-level electives using experiential modalities (art, meditation, music, cooking, drama, etc.) to explore curricular themes, for grades 5-7.

**Music:** Students have music sessions with the cantor that reinforce their Hebrew and sense of connection to the Jewish community.

**Shabbat Morning:** As the centerpiece of the KTI Religious School, students in grades 3-6 experience their own “Junior Congregation” on Shabbat morning as they come together for their own school-wide Shabbat service, which reinforces their knowledge of the prayer service. This includes an exploration of that week’s Torah portion.